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## Where Did The Window Boxes Go?

By Liz Norman

I just happen to love window boxes and miss seeing them in the more modern neighborhoods these

days. My neighbors who lived across the street from us had just painted their older rather plain, small house a medium gray with white trim. Clean, but boring I thought. With two large windows on each side of the front door, I had visions of painting the front door red and adding 2 red window boxes beneath those windows. Talk about adding some impact!

Window boxes can take a plain nondescript house and give it the look of a charming country cottage in no time. Window boxes are also particularly wonderful when you are limited for planting space in a small yard. You can fill them with low growing and trailing flowers, vines or even herbs. You may be hard put to find ready-made window boxes at your local garden store these days, but they are still available online.

If you want to make your own window boxes, cedar or redwood would be the wood of choice. If you can't find some kind of a plastic or metal liner to fit, I would further protect the wood by lining the boxes with plain old tarpaper before adding the planting mix. You can then mount them to the window frames with the proper sized brackets. Your neighborhood hardware store can guide you in the right direction.

Make sure you drill some holes in the bottom of the window boxes for good drainage and water daily during the summer months. Once every few weeks or so, add some fertilizer for container plants, then sit back and enjoy beautiful blooms from both the outside and inside of the house.

Some good flower choices for window boxes would be geraniums, marigolds, trillium, alyssum, and any other low growing flowers that love the sun. For the shady side of the house, try fuchsias or the beautiful non-stop begonias. Some useful herb choices would include chives, rosemary, parsley and thyme. If you like fresh mint, don't plant any other herb in that particular window box as the mint will take over all other plants.

Liz Norman is an avid gardener and freelance writer. Click here for

<http://www.windowboxes101.info>

## **Packing Tips**

**By dan the roommate man**

### **Packing Tips by dan the roommate man**

This weekend, I moved from an old apartment into a new, bigger, WONDERFUL town home. Just like any move, this one wasn't very fun. No matter how many times I do it, there are always an infinite number of sentences beginning with "I wish I'd...." or "It would've helped so much if we'd...."

This move, I realized that the moving process needed to be organized like a scientific experiment. There are materials you need, there's a procedure to follow. The result? You finish moving, and can settle comfortably and un-stressed into your new home. Today we'll look at the first stage of moving:

#### **STAGE 1: Packing**

Materials needed: several good, big, black permanent markers; lots of paper to wrap your breakables in; masking tape; friends or people who owe you favors; boxes; boxes; boxes; boxes; more boxes.

Procedure:

1. Buy the markers from your grocery store. Click [here](#) to print out a full **STUFF YOU'LL NEED LIST** and get everything your going to need for the move in one trip.
2. Get your boxes: After you shop for your moving supplies, check behind the store. Most stores will have a plethora of great boxes (unless someone's beaten you to them). If you're moving around the beginning of the school year, you might make a call to a nearby school. Every year, teachers get in new book shipments, so they usually have tons of extra boxes.
3. Get packing paper: If you're living in an apartment, there's usually a "paper only" recycle bin next to the mail boxes. Raid this first, and then gather up old newspapers.
4. Convince your friends (or those who you've helped move in the past) to come over and help you. The more people you have, the faster things will get done.

A few tips before you start filling boxes:

# Get everything on your **AFTER THE MOVE LIST** and put it in the bath tub of your new place. Why the bath tub? Because it's just about the only place you won't be shoving boxes into, and it's usually already clean.

# Do not pack things in trash bags.... especially if you have a lot of people helping you move. Someone will throw the bags away.

# Don't just mark boxes **KITCHEN**, or **BEDROOM**. Break things down into sub-categories. It's easy to do and makes unpacking a breeze. For example you might have **KITCHEN – Dishes and Silverware**;

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BEDROOM – Sheets and Comforter, etc.

# When you move boxes, you'll be stacking them, so don't just write the contents on the top of boxes, write them on every side.

# Wait as long as you can to pack your stereo or T.V. You'll want entertainment while you're packing.

# To protect glasses from breaking, wad up paper to shove inside and then wrap the glasses in several sheets of newspaper.

# Don't forget to wad up paper to shove between breakables.

Pack 'til you can't pack any more!

Hopefully, these little tidbits will help you pack for your next move.

Since 1989 dan the roommate man has helped 1000's of people find roommates. Need help? Contact him at 800-487-8050 or [www.roommateexpress.com](http://www.roommateexpress.com)



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